AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-5 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 6, 10, 11, 16, 17, and 21 and include newly added claims 22-24 as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An extension pole comprising an elongated pole section having one end thereof adapted for supporting any one of a number of fixtures, said one end including an outwardly projecting tool supporting and securing element, said element including first and second threaded portions, and a threadably mounted locking member disposed about ~~said element~~ the first threaded portion, said second threaded portion operable for threadably receiving a fixture, said member operable for engaging ~~the~~ an end of ~~a~~ the fixture ~~supported on and secured to said element~~ , said threaded portions having thread pitches different from each other.

7. (Original) The pole of claim 6, said element comprising an elongated threaded body, said member comprising an annular ferrule threadably supported by said pole section and movable relative to said body.

8. (Original) The pole of claim 7, said ferrule presenting an outermost annular face, said annular face configured for directly abutting and engaging the proximal end of a fixture supported by and secured to said element.

9. (Original) The pole of claim 6, said pole comprising a pair of telescopically interfitted pole sections, said fixture-supporting pole section being shiftable relative to an outer pole section.

10. (Currently Amended) The pole of claim 9, including a locking mechanism operable for securing said fixture-supporting pole section at any one of a number of positions relative to said outer pole section.

11. (Currently Amended) An extension pole, comprising:

an elongated, tubular outer pole section;

an elongated inner pole section telescopically received within said outer pole section and shiftable relative thereto; and

a locking mechanism for locking said inner pole section at any one of the number of different positions relative to said outer pole section,

said locking mechanism including –

an elongated, tubular collet cam disposed about and operatively coupled with said outer pole section and having at least a pair of body sections and a corresponding pair of axially projecting, resilient locking segments, each of said segments having an elongated, axially extending connection portion and having an unrestrained, axially extending margin remote from said connection portion, each of said segment margins being radially displaceable relative to the corresponding connection portion,

each of said segment margins being attached to the respective body section by the connection portion and cantilevered from the connection portion in a circumferential direction; and

a chuck shiftably secured to said outer pole section and adjacent said collet cam, said chuck upon shifting thereof operable to inwardly displace said segment margins in order to lock said inner pole section relative to said outer pole section.

12. (Original) The pole of claim 11, each of said segments having, along the width thereof between said connection portion and said margin, a region of increased thickness, said chuck rotationally mounted to said outer pole section and having surfaces adjacent said segments for engaging said regions and camming the segments into frictional locking engagement with said inner pole section.

13. (Original) The pole of claim 11, each of said segments being arcuate in cross section and presenting an inner surface having a radius of curvature with a central axis, the central axes of said inner surfaces being offset from one another.

14. (Original) The pole of claim 11, each of said segments having an outermost arcuate edge, there being a cut line in each segment axially spaced from the corresponding edge and generally parallel thereto.

15. (Original) The pole of claim 11, said cam including an inwardly extending stop extending through said outer pole section.

16. (Currently Amended) The pole of claim 11, said chuck and collet cam cooperatively configured for locking said inner ~~tubular~~ pole section relative to said outer ~~tubular~~ pole section by rotation of said chuck through an angle of less than about 45°.

17. (Currently Amended) An extension pole, comprising:

an elongated, tubular outer pole section;

an elongated inner pole section telescopically received within said outer pole section and shiftable relative thereto; and

a locking mechanism for locking said inner pole section at any one of the number of different positions relative to said outer pole section,

said locking mechanism including –

an elongated, tubular collet cam disposed about and operatively coupled with said outer pole section and having a pair of resilient locking segments, each of said segments having a region ~~of increased thickness~~ with a radial outer dimension that progressively increases in a circumferential direction; and

a chuck shiftably secured to said outer pole section and adjacent said tubular collet cam, said chuck upon shifting thereof operable to displace said segments in order to lock said inner pole section relative to said outer pole section, said chuck rotationally mounted to said outer pole section and having surfaces each with a radial inner dimension that progressively increases in the circumferential direction,

said surfaces being spaced adjacent said segments for engaging said regions and camming the segments into frictional locking engagement with said inner pole section as the chuck is rotated relative to the collet cam.

18. (Original) The pole of claim 17, each of said segments being arcuate in cross section and presenting an inner surface having a radius of curvature with a central axis, the central axes of said inner surfaces being offset from one another.

19. (Original) The pole of claim 17, each of said segments having an outermost arcuate edge, there being a cut line in each segment axially spaced from the corresponding edge and generally parallel thereto, whereby each of the segments is supported by an elongated, axially extending connection portion, and each segment having an unrestrained, axially extending margin remote from said connection portion.

20. (Original) The pole of claim 17, said cam including an inwardly extending stop extending through said outer pole section.

21. (Currently Amended) The pole of claim 17, said chuck and collet cam cooperatively configured for locking said inner ~~tubular~~ pole section relative to said outer ~~tubular~~ pole section by rotation of said chuck through an angle of less than about 45°.

22. (New) The pole of claim 6,

the thread pitch of said first threaded portion being greater than the thread pitch of said second threaded portion.

23. (New) The pole of claim 17,

one of said elongated pole sections having one end thereof adapted for supporting any one of a number of fixtures, said one end including an outwardly projecting tool

supporting and securing element, said element including first and second threaded portions, and a threadably mounted locking member disposed about the first threaded portion, said second threaded portion operable for threadably receiving a fixture, said member operable for engaging an end of the fixture, said threaded portions having thread pitches different from each other.

24. (New) The pole of claim 17,

said elongated, tubular collet cam disposed about and operatively coupled with said outer pole section and having at least a pair of body sections and a corresponding pair of axially projecting, resilient locking segments, each of said segments having an elongated, axially extending connection portion and having an unrestrained, axially extending margin remote from said connection portion, each of said segment margins being radially displaceable relative to the corresponding connection portion,

each of said segment margins being attached to the respective body section by the connection portion and cantilevered from the connection portion in a circumferential direction.